



Sarah Palin, Governor
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Education Committee Minutes

December 12, 2007

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ric Nelson, Taylor Gregg, Anna Attla, Kris Johnston, David Kvasager

5 members, 4 voting members – *no quorum*

Staff: Judith Bendersky

3:30 p.m. **Call to Order:** (Kris, Chair)

Introductions, announcements or good news – Governor's budget holds good news. Governor put funds in for Autism Diagnostic Teams and \$200 increase on base student allocation per student. There's capacity issues in all the service area and this is an area for advocacy when the Council is in Juneau.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes dated November 2007

Emails or other correspondence – ASSEC booklet and logistics

3:45 p.m. **Special Education Advisory Panel:**

From the Chair (Kris, 10 minutes)

ASSEC – get your ASSEC registration and travel paperwork in by January 9, 2008 to Marilee. FAX is 269-8995. The website is www.assec.org and you can find the registration form there. You can register for one day, the luncheon pre or post classes or the full three days of the conference.

Inclusive Practice Awards

Governor's Support for Education Funding Taskforce's recommendations

Workplan

Face-to-face - Sunday night 2/17 there will be a face to face at Judith's condo. 5-8 p.m.

Judith will contact John Owen to prepare information for us about RTI.

Kathy Allely – update on Autism Ad Hoc Committee

Kathy has been working on the Council's autism initiative. Recommendations from the ad hoc autism committee have been forwarded to the Administration. There are 5 components: 1. universal screening and well-child checkups, 2. referral for a comprehensive evaluation with success on funding to expand the diagnostic capacity in the state and to have additional screening clinics throughout the state. The MH trust money was going to be available for a year and now the state is picking up funds again for the next fiscal year if nothing changes as it moves through the legislative process. 3. Autism resource center that SESA has and funding has increased for that 4. time-limited early intervention services through a Medicaid waiver for a period while the child is young which would offer early intensive intervention 5. build capacity to train up people in Alaska to provide the intensive intervention services for children with autism.

The question is: is the education system ready for all this? More children will be identified through this process. This means instruction for more children. It is advisable to do some planning for the education system and Kathy wanted to begin this discussion with the Education Committee.

There might need to be a special group formed for this effort involving Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai and some smaller, rural districts as well. This will involve training paraprofessionals in the school systems. School districts cannot do it alone, Medicaid cannot. There must be a collaborative effort. All these pieces must be working together to work well for children and families. This would include people from Early Intervention.

Requests/Updates from Department of Education (Art Arnold or Nancy Guthrie)

- Department staff updates

- Summary of recent conferences/training events
- Monitoring update
- Mediations/Complaints
- Grants, regulations, funding issues, etc.

Updates from the Committee membership

David Kvasager: Division of Voc Rehab has a new director Sheryl Walsh. She met with the Commissioner of Dept of Labor and a big agenda item is apprenticeships. There's the advantage of earning while you learn, regular pay increases and a mentor or someone who provides. Any job can utilize the apprenticeship model. David met with the US Dept of Labor who does around 900 apprenticeship-able jobs. This will be fun.

Ric is going to Florida right after Christmas. Kris will have the whole family back together for Christmas this year.

Next meeting: date, time, agenda items -

Projected meeting dates: January 9, 20008

Meeting is adjourned 4:15 p.m.